

From: Don Harikian
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 1:22pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Please accept my comments on the Microsoft Settlement.

I am a business user and consumer of Microsoft products so my comments are from that perspective and are my own opinion. I have been in the business world long enough to see the evolution of many computer software products. I have always gravitated to the products that provided the most efficiency and reduction in work as possible. I was delighted to install Framework on my computer because it integrated features that I used most often. I must say that over those years Microsoft products ended up always providing the most efficiency for the price as any other product I have used on my desk top computer. For this reason I have always been confused by the theme of the antitrust case that Microsoft has harmed consumers. It seems that they have harmed competitors only because they provide, as I said, a better product for less cost. Microsoft is not the only software that our company uses, any software that adds value for a reasonable cost is on my desktop.

This brings me to my second point of confusion about the case in that it implies that I do not have a choice, as a consumer/user, about what software I use on my desk top just because Microsoft has an icon on it. I have never had any problem loading other software that adds value to my computer.

My third point is the question about proprietary software. I am not speaking as a lawyer but the company that has the ingenuity and know-how to bring unique products to the market should not be required to allow other companies to pirate and capitalize on that through access to their detailed programs. The DOJ should respect and honor this concept rather than allowing the "world" to have access to American ingenuity.

Fourth, I have followed this case since its inception and talked to many others in the business world and also home use consumers and have yet to find one person that said they have been harmed or have paid too much for Microsoft products. All have said that the company provides the best value for the buck. Our data processing people were ecstatic with NT products when they came out. They provided a low cost alternative. I am still wondering who has been harmed. Perhaps competitors with an inferior product at a higher price? Please do not construe my comments as just loyalty to Microsoft because as I said I have many of Microsoft competitor's products on my computer.

In summary, even though I am confused about the basic elements of this case, the settlement should be completed as it stands to get this whole thing behind us. The U.S. economy has suffered because of it and we must get on with innovation. I agree with Microsoft's position on their statement of "Freedom to Innovate". I urge the dissenting states to end this as quickly

as possible, it has already gone to far! I also encourage the DOJ to bring as much influence on those states to end this.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion. That is why America is the greatest!

Regards,

Don Harikian

Send and receive Hotmail on your mobile device: <http://mobile.msn.com>